Coal Miners trapped inside the mines in Jharia Coalfields

258. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of coal miners engaged in mining operations in the Jharia Coalfields of Tata Colliery were trapped inside the mines after power supply was suddenly disconnected by Bihar State Electricity Board on the 7th October, 1991 endangering the lives of the miners;

(b) if so, what were the reasons therefor and the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Private Air Taxi Operators in the Country

259. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have liberalised the policy relating to the operation of domestic air services by private air-taxi operators;

(b) if so, what is the number of private air taxi operators in the country at present; and

(c) the details regarding their routes and the names of the airports of their operation and the fares being charged by each one of them?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Six operators have been granted permits for operating air taxi services in the country.

(c) There are no restrictions now on the size of aircraft, routes, schedules, fares and airports of operations in the matter of private parties running air services in the country.

Number of Buses

260. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of buses on Route Nos. 71, 72, 47, 313 and 725 have gone down during the last three years and till date;

(b) if so, the total number of buses deployed on each of the above routes during this period;

(c) the number of missing trips on each of the routes mentioned above during that period;

(d) whether Government propose to increase the number of buses deployed on each of the routes mentioned above; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) There has been a marginal decline in the number of buses in route numbers 72, 313 and 725. The number of buses deployed